

Is Your Faith Decorative or Fruitful?

As autumn arrives in America, pumpkins begin appearing as decorations for front porches. Some are carefully carved into jack-o-lanterns, admired until they begin rotting, and are then thrown away. Other pumpkins find their way into kitchens, becoming pies, soups, breads, and countless other recipes that nourish family and friends. When we first moved to New Zealand, we were shocked to see people eating Halloween decorations! Well, not really. But they were eating pumpkins instead of decorating with them. After a while, we realized how delicious roast pumpkin and pumpkin soup were. We would always joke that we never knew how delicious these fall decorations could be!

The same pumpkin can serve very different purposes. That simple observation offers an opportunity for spiritual reflection.

It is possible for Christians to focus primarily on appearances. We may look faithful from the outside. We attend every worship service, know the right answers in Bible class, and maintain a good reputation. These are good things—but if our faith never blesses others, we have missed part of God’s purpose for our lives.

Jesus repeatedly warned against an outward religion that lacked inward transformation. Speaking to the Pharisees, He said, “You are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of... uncleanness” (Matthew 23:27). Their appearance was impressive, but their hearts were far from God.

By contrast, Jesus taught that His followers should bear fruit. “I am the vine; you are the branches... whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit” (John 15:5). Fruit nourishes others. It brings life, encouragement, and blessing. In the same way, Christians are called to live lives that benefit those around them.

Paul described the fruits of a Spirit-filled life as “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23). These qualities cannot simply be displayed like decorations. They grow when our hearts are transformed by God’s grace. James reminds us that genuine faith expresses itself through action. “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). A beautiful profession of faith without compassionate service is incomplete.

The good news is that God is far more interested in changing our hearts than polishing our image. As we abide in His Word, He produces fruit that we could never manufacture on our own. Our words become more gracious, our patience increases, our generosity grows, and our lives begin feeding the spiritual needs of others.

So this fall, as pumpkins appear on porches and around town, consider the question: Are we merely decorative Christians, content to look the part? Or are we allowing God to make us fruitful for His kingdom?

Jesus answered that question with a simple but profound command: “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (John 15:8). May our lives be known not simply for looking like followers of Christ, but for producing the kind of fruit that brings glory to God and nourishment to a world in need.

John Jones



PRAYER LIST

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” - **James 5:16**

Recent Medical Concerns / Updates**Morgan Peyton-** continued prayers/**Zachary Behr**-surg on 10/19) **Upcoming Surgeries / Recovery**
Dennis Spann-(Kim Forster’s dad)in Vanderbilt in series condition **Emma Flowers-** (Joey & Erica’s dght)recovering from ankle repair surg.
Krista Campbell-(Thomas & Ayla’s 15 yr old niece)will have a tumor & cyst removed on 10/19-prayers for recovery & no cancer will be found)
Jess Dugan-(Kerri Wheeler’s uncle)ICU-not doing well-prayers **Eric Warden**-in medical care - prayers **Pam Forster**-double knee surg on 10/22

Those being Treated for Cancer
Jimmy Phy - CA
Dale Street - (N. Buttrey grandfather) **Patsy Kolbe**-(Annette Petty’s Aunt) lung CA
Hudson Jones -(2yr old-Walnut St COC–Leukemia)
Robert Gardner (friend of Bill Williams) CA
David Stokes - (Jordan Stokes & Carly Stone’s dad)
Chris McCurley - Walnut St coC

Dwight Profitt - cancer, prayers
Mack Winstead - CA - continued prayers
David Nowlin - CA treatments - WcoC elder
Jackie Borders - Lauren Stuart’s mom
Robert Gardner (friend of Bill Williams)
Bill Bieneman - (**Mike Burns** cousin)
Maggie Wright - (friend of N. Buttrey) CA

Those with Ongoing Medical Issues

W. R. & Louise Long	Bonita Madewell	Al & Vicki Peek	Sherry Harvey	Betty Suddeath	Becky Palk
Jackie Harvey	Chase Lewis	Doug Simpson	Judy Simpson	Joanie Coleman	Clay Crafton
Alyssa Gold	Josh Barnet	Lance Davis	Claude Hurt	June Brake	Aaron Sears
Frances Simpson	Marcia Simpson	Shane Cobb	Jessica Ahne	Kay Monroe	Shirley Banes -recent surg.

Savannah Patrick - (Rhett’s syndrome - Marsha Patrick’s granddaughter) c/o Jaimie Patrick - 111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN

Assisted Living/Nursing Home/ Rehab

- Humphreys Co. Rehab/NH** **Jane Ridings** (now room 310) (in Waverly) **Wayne Jones**
- Magnolia Place** - **Jimmy Tyler**-room 106
- NHC (Dickson)** - **Alneita Rye**-room 405
- Waverly Hills Post Acute (Waverly)**- **Bertha Bradford** (rm 102A)

Homebound: in McEwen / Outside McEwen
Gary Davis-4126 Hurricane Ck Rd. **Betty James** 8516 Burleson Ln.,
Jimmy Mullinicks - 56 Mike St. Murfreesboro,TN 37129

MILITARY: **Dalton Palk**-just shipped out- with navy for a 10 mth tour-his wife & 3 kids @ 1910 Historic Decatur Rd, San Diego, CA 92106. Prayers & cards for comfort & safety.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER’S UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, Nov 1st**-Mission Sunday-will be Meet-Eat & Meet

**Saturday, Nov 7th** 231 Trash Pick-up starts @ 8 am.

**Sunday, Nov 8th @ 7PM** Ladies Christmas party & gift exchange. Please bring a \$10-\$12 gift & finger foods.

**Wednesday, Nov 11th** @ 11:30am -“**Veteran’s Day**”recognition

**Saturday, Nov 14th** from 11:30-1:00-Thanksgiving Meal & Coat Giveaway (normally the Saturday before Thanksgiving) this year a week early.

**Week of Nov. 16th** - fruit baskets prepared & given out

REMEMBER OUR COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT WILL BE ON FRIDAY, OCT 30TH FROM 6:00-7:30, SIGN-UP LIST IN THE FOYER FOR ALL WHO CAN DECORATE A TRUCK. PLEASE BE BRINGING CANDY & LEAVE DOWNSTAIRS.



Ladies, remember if you signed up to ride the van to White Bluff COC ladies day this coming Saturday, Oct 24th, the van will be leaving from here at 8:00 am.

IN FOCUS - Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Our only youth activity last week was FLAME on Wednesday night. We had a group of 13 youth in attendance. We spent our time playing a game called ‘How well do you know your youth group’. It was a lot of fun, and we actually learned some new things about each other. After the game we enjoyed some food and fellowship before bible study. I appreciate all the youth that came and for their willingness and want to be together.

On Friday afternoon some of our youth and several of our adults loaded up and headed to Nathan Bedford State Park for our fall retreat weekend. We arrived around 5:15, got everything unloaded and settled in. It was an awesome and encouraging weekend spent with great people. I’m so thankful to everyone that came, I just wish it would not have gone by so fast!

In Him, Keith

PRIVELEGED TO SERVE

Sunday, October 25th, 2026

Welcome	John Potter
Song Leader	Mark Forster
Opening Prayer	John Hurt
Sermon	Keith Grigsby
Lord's Table	Jim Suddeath
Mike Robertson	Jacen Robertson
Billy Buttrey	Gerald Curtis
Brent Davis	Barry Phy
Closing Prayer	Noah Stuart
Card Collectors	Luke H. Wright
	& Hudson Buttrey
Greeters	Dwight & LeAnne Stuart
Cup Collectors	Youth
Security	Team #5

Sunday- 6:00 p.m.,October 25th,2026

Song Leader	Mark Forster
Prayer	Jon Holland
Sermon	Keith Grigsby
Lord's Table	Bruce Mayfield
	Thomas Cook
Closing Prayer	Calvin Buckner

Wednesday 6:30 p.m., Oct. 28th, 2026

Song Leader	Jimmy Long
Prayer	Corky Grigsby
Sermon/Lesson	Bruce Mayfield

* If you are unable to serve in your scheduled appointment, please contact Wade Tummins in advance (931-209-6291).

*If changes need to made in scheduling, please contact Jimmy Phy.

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Return Service Requested



If you are unable to attend any service, please tune in to our Facebook page or YouTube channel to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's body, but a tool for those who may be homebound, shut-in or sick.

**The MESSENGER is
also online on the
church website!**



OUR RECORDS FOR 10/18/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School	95
Sunday Morning Worship	160
Sunday Evening Worship	63
Wednesday Bible Study	104
Sunday Contribution	\$8,389

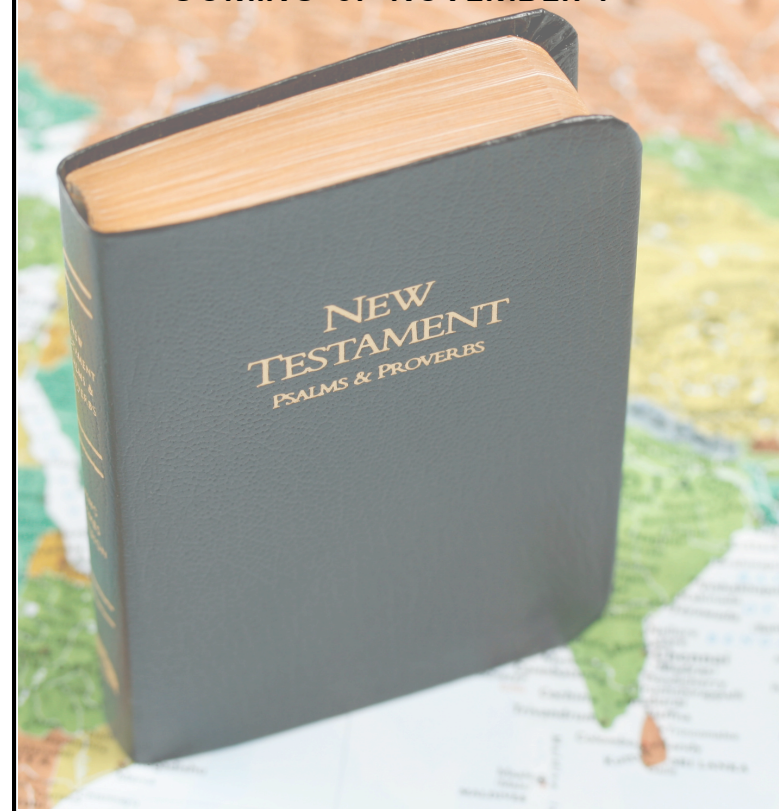


The MESSENGER

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Week of October 18, 2026 A Caring Church Lifting Up the CROSS and CROWN of CHRIST

OUR MISSION SUNDAY COMING UP NOVEMBER 1ST



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9 a.m.
Worship	10 a.m.
Evening Worship	6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
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Elders

Calvin Buckner
Billy Buttrey
W. R. Long
Bruce Mayfield
Mike Robertson

Deacons

Derek Berryman	Mike Burns
Wayne Coates	Mark Forster
John Hurt	Barry Phy
Robert Proctor	James Ridings
Joe Smith.	Dwight Stuart
Ethan Tummins	Wade Tummins
	Ronnie Tyler

Staff

Ministers	-	Every Member!
Pulpit	-	John Jones
Youth	-	Keith Grigsby
Secretaries	-	Terri Tummins
		Teresa Fleming

Get in Touch!

Address: 9704 Hwy. 70 E.

Mail: P. O. Box 256, McEwen, TN 37101

Phone: 931-582-6130

Email: mcewencofo@gmail.com

Website: www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com

EVANGELISM PROGRAM

If you have not received by email a (Mission Reprt) from John & Erin, there are some copies on the back table in the audirorium.

Continue to keep all of them & their efforts in yr prayers.